

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 11th September 2022
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Friends

A 13th century Sufi mystic and theologian said ‘What you seek is seeking you’. This holds true in our relationship with God. Surely there is something in all of us which innately seeks our Creator, just as our Creator seeks communion with us. The idea is that we allow God to, in a manner of speaking, ‘complete the circuit’ within us until we both see from the same perspective.

Throughout scripture we hear about God seeking people. Today’s Gospel teaches us about the joy God gets when what God seeks is found. The tendency of sheep to wander off, perhaps to what might seem to be ‘greener grass’, leads to its separation from the flock and from its shepherd. So it is with us humans: we stray and wander away from God’s guidance thinking we can manage the journey of life by our own strength and wisdom.

Jesus tells us what the parables are about: lost sinners are found and God and the angels rejoice. There is more joy over one sinner who is found than any ninety-nine who have no need for repentance. There’s the catch. We try to take seriously Jesus’ conclusion by making confession every Sunday. But often we are like the scribes and Pharisees who think everyone else but them needs to repent, to turn, turn till they ‘come round right’ as the Shaker hymn puts it. There are lessons for all who have ears and listen to what’s going on here. For we have here a story of God’s limitless goodness – God’s never-ending love and compassion for all people.

In today's world, in which demeaning others has become the commonplace, everyday rhetoric of people on all sides of all conflicts, can we place ourselves in this crowd of tax collectors, sinners, Pharisees, and scribes and listen to what is being said? Until we accept that we are all lost, how can we ever be found?

The witness of the Biblical story from Genesis to Revelation is that our God is relentlessly compassionate, pursuing us even when we are at our worst. And, as the writer of I Timothy implies, God is patient. As the good shepherd, God seeks us and always has our best interests at heart. That is why God desires us to be in right relationship and delights in restoration. Then we can identify with the medieval mystic Meister Eckhart who said: 'The eye through which I see God is the same eye through which God sees me; my eye and God's eye are one eye, one seeing, one knowing, one love'.

Arohanui,

Sue (Vicar)

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 11th September 2022

Sentence

I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

Luke 15:10

Collect

**Rejoicing God,
you pursue us more than we seek after you,
and tenderly exult when we find our life in you;
may we share in your delight
and in your care
for the lonely and the lost;
through Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.**

<u>1st Reading</u>	<i>Exodus 32.7-14</i>
<u>2nd Reading</u>	<i>1 Timothy 1.12-17</i>
<u>Gospel</u>	<i>Luke 15.1-10</i>

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the youth of our Province – Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, and for the people of the Clive Cooperating Parish.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Colin, Shirley.

Word and Light OUR PARISH MAGAZINE

The theme for the next edition will be **Gardens and Gardening**. Articles on other topics are also welcome. Photos add interest. Please send your contributions to Lynda, the Parish Administrator, by **18th September 2022**.

OASIS OP SHOP is now open on SATURDAYS

Our Op Shop is now open every Saturday from 10.00am to 1.00pm. The new coffee shop opened recently and their hours of business include Saturdays. They are busy and are bringing new customers and therefore income for our shop. In addition, there are people who wish to shop on a Saturday because they work elsewhere during the week.

If you have a spare Saturday to volunteer – perhaps once a month – please contact Maree, our Op Shop Manager. Her contact details are:

oasisopshopmanager@gmail.com
or 021 261 9833 or 07 576 2422 (during Shop hours)

PARISH OFFICE

Lynda is away on leave this week. The Vicar will be in the office Monday to Thursday.

This Week Beginning: 12th September

Tuesday	1.00 pm	AAW meeting in the lounge
Wednesday	10.00 am	Mid-week Eucharist
	2.00 pm	SAYGo in the hall
	3.00 pm	Service at Radius Matua
Friday	9.00 am	Senior Chef
Op Shop	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Monday to Friday (ph. 576 2422)
	10.00 am - 1.00 pm	Saturday
Playgroup	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Toy Library	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Services for Sunday 18th September–

OT 25

8.30 am	Holy Eucharist
10.00 am	Holy Eucharist

Contact Us

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